The University of Alberta Department of Music presents:

VISITING ARTIST

CRAIG NIES, PIANO

Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 8:00 pm
Convocation Hall, Arts Building
University of Alberta

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Program

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, BWV 874-876 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

5. Prelude and Fugue in D Major
6. Prelude and Fugue in D Minor
7. Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major

Le Tombeau de Couperin (1914-1917) — Maurice Ravel (1875–937)

Prelude
Fugue
Forlane
Rigaudon
Minuet
Toccata

Intermission

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, BWV 877-878 — Johann Sebastian Bach

8. Prelude and Fugue in D-Sharp Minor
9. Prelude and Fugue in E Major

Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Opus 58 — Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Allegro maestoso
Scherzo. Molto vivace
Largo
Finale. Presto, non tanto; Agitato.

Craig Nies has been on the piano faculty at the Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, since 1991, serving as co-chair of the piano department for 14 years. Prior to that, he was an adjunct Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Music for 6 years. His performances have ranged from his work with 10 Pulitzer Prize-winning composers to his current solo recital series of Bach's complete Well-Tempered Clavier.

Dr Nies recently completed an 8-concert recital series featuring the complete sonatas of Mozart and Schubert, as well as Bach's Goldberg Variations. Between 2001 and 2003 he performed the complete violin and cello sonatas of Beethoven with members of the Blair String Quartet and Blakemore Trio. While teaching at Yale, he performed the complete solo works of Debussy, which were broadcast on National Public Radio. He has performed with members of the Mendelssohn, Franciscan, Alexander, Audubon, and Blair String Quartets, and members of the New York Woodwind Quintet. New York performances include Tully Hall (solo debut), Merkin, Kaufmann, and Town Hall. Several premiere performances include three in New York City, and nine works by Blair composer Michael Rose, including his piano concerto in Prague and Olomouc, Czech Republic. Along with radio and television appearances in the U.S., Dr. Nies has appeared on television and radio in England, Russia, and Germany.

Craig Nies has worked with such noted conductors as David Effron, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kenneth Schermerhorn, Otto-Werner Mueller, Arthur Weisberg, and Robin Fountain, performing concerti ranging from Messiaen's Oiseaux Exotiques and de Falla's Nights in the Gardens of Spain to the Brahms 2nd and Rachmaninoff 3rd.

Dr Nies joined the faculty of the Brevard Summer Music Festival in 2006. Previous summer festivals have included Music Mountain (CT), Rutgers Summerfest (NJ), Music '98 (Cincinnati, OH), Summer Serenades at SUNY Stony Brook, Yale in Norfolk (CT), and Highlands (NC/GA).

His teachers have included Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Rudolf Serkin, Claude Frank, Beveridge Webster, and Gilbert Kalish. Dr Nies has degrees from the Curtis Institute of Music, Yale University School of Music, and SUNY Stony Brook.

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